

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 THE HA 04917 041527Z

70

ACTION EB-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-05 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-03 COME-00 DODE-00 FPC-01 H-03 INR-11 INT-08

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01 SAM-01 SCI-06

SP-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 FRB-03 FEA-02 PA-04

USIA-15 PRS-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /184 W

----- 130960

R 041420Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4493

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE THE HAGUE 4917

PASS COMMERCE FOR OED

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, NL

SUBJ: A RED LETTER DAY FOR PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL

REF: HAGUE 4794, HAGUE A-180 (NOTAL)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 THE HA 04917 041527Z

1. A LETTER PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL DENIED EXISTENCE OF BUT

WHICH IN FACT WAS RECEIVED BY PERSONS TO WHOM IT WAS ADDRESSED HAS NOT ONLY EMBARRASSED DEN UYL BUT ALSO HIGHLIGHTED AMBIGUITIES IN GOVERNMENT'S NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM (HAGUE 4794).

2. ON SEPTEMBER 26 MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS LUBBERS ANNOUNCED CABINET DECISION TO BUILD THREE NEW NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS BY 1985. HE SAID CONSTRUCTION OF FIRST COULD COMMENCE IN 1976. ALTHOUGH LUBBERS MADE DATE CONDITIONAL ON COMPLETION OF ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL AND SAFETY STUDIES, CLEAR IMPLICATION WAS THAT THESE WERE NOT GOING TO BE OBSTACLES TO EARLY START. DECISION WAS DUBBED A COMPROMISE BETWEEN LUBBERS AND HIS OPPONENTS, SOME CABINET MEMBERS AND AN INFLUENTIAL PRIVATE GROUP, WHO HAD URGED POSTPONEMENT OF CONSTRUCTION FOR FIVE YEARS, BUT BELIEF WAS THAT LUBBERS HAD GOTTEN BETTER OF HIS ADVERSARIES.

3. TWO DAYS LATER, ON SEPTEMBER 27, REPORTS APPEARED IN PRESS OF LETTER PRIMIN DEN UYL ALLEGEDLY HAD SENT TO SICCO MANSCHOLT, FORMER EC COMMISSIONER, AND MR. A.H. KLOOS, BOTH PROMINENT MEMBERS OF DEN UYL'S LABOR PARTY, INFORMING THEM THAT CONSTRUCTION OF THREE NEW STATIONS WOULD NOT START BEFORE 1979.

4. DEN UYL PROMPTLY DENIED HE HAD WRITTEN SUCH A LETTER, BUT ON SEPTEMBER 30 MANSCHOLT IN A TELEVISION INTERVIEW CONFIRMED ITS EXISTENCE. HE SAID HE HAD RECEIVED LETTER SCARCELY TWO DAYS AFTER LUBBER'S ANNOUNCEMENT, WAS HAPPY WITH DEN UYL'S WRITTEN ASSURANCE ABOUT 1979, BUT THAT HIS HAPPINESS WAS ALLOYED BY LUBBER'S MENTION OF 1976.

5. RESULT WAS PREDICTABLE BROUHAHA OVER PRIME MINISTER'S DUPLICITY. LIBERAL PARTY FLOOR LEADER HANS WIEGEL IMMEDIATELY QUESTIONED WHY DEN UYL HAD DENIED LETTER'S EXISTENCE AND WHETHER HE HAD DISCUSSED CONTENTS WITH LUBBERS BEFORE DISPATCHING IT. ADDRESSING LUBBERS, WIEGEL ASKED IF HE HAD BEEN INFORMED OF LETTER BEFOREHAND AND WHETHER HE AGREED WITH IT. PRESS COMPARED EPISODE TO WATERGATE. (IN EDITORIAL CARTOON IN CONSERVATIVE DE TELEGRAAF, MIRROR INTO WHICH DEN UYL, SHAVING, STARED, REFLECTED NOT HIMSELF BUT NIXON.)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 THE HA 04917 041527Z

6. FIRST RESPONSE FROM DEN UYL WAS STATEMENT BY HIS OFFICE THAT PRIME MINISTER DID NOT EXPECT PRIVATE CORRESPONDENCE TO BE MADE PUBLIC. FACING CONTINUED ADVERSE PUBLICITY, DEN UYL HIMSELF ON OCTOBER 3 CLAIMED HE HAD NOT TOLD HALF TRUTH IN SAYING HE HAD NOT WRITTEN LETTER SINCE HAD WRITTEN IN RESPONSE TO A LETTER, WHICH WAS NOT THE SAME THING. THIS HAIR-SPLITTING DEFENSE HAS PROVOKED MORE CRITICISM.

7. WHILE REASONS FOR WHAT DEN UYL SAID IN HIS LETTER ARE NOT CLEAR, BASIS FOR CORRESPONDENCE IS. MANSHOLT AND KLOOS WERE MEMBERS OF STUDY COMMITTEE ON NUCLEAR ENERGY POLICY WHICH LUBBERS APPOINTED IN MARCH TO ADVISE HIM. COMMITTEE IN JULY MADE KNOWN ITS SUPPORT FOR CONSTRUCTION OF NEW PLANTS. MANSHOLT AND KLOOS, IN MINORITY, ISSUED SEPARATE REPORT.

8. DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR ENERGY IN MINISTRY OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MR. L.G. WANSINK, TOOK REFUGE IN FACT DEN UYL'S LETTER WAS PRIVATE. HE TOLD EMBOFF THAT CONSTRUCTION COULD START ONCE NECESSARY STUDIES ARE COMPLETED, WHICH MIGHT BE ANYWEHRE FROM 1976 TO 1979.
GOULD

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR ENERGY, CONSTRUCTION, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974THEHA04917
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740281-1005
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741070/aaaachvl.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: HAGUE 4794, HAGUE A-180 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 MAR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 MAR 2002 by martinml>; APPROVED <21 MAY 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: A RED LETTER DAY FOR PRIME MINISTER DEN UYL
TAGS: ENRG, NL
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005